TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES OF STATEWIDE DATA SYSTEMS

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Impressions of a state proposal reviewer…

- Easier to state the *problem* (need) than to describe a *solution* (action)

- Easier to get *paper* support than active support—*committees* vs. *work groups*

- Awareness that data systems are *part* of the solution, not the *entire* solution

- Solution involves technology *and* people

- Solution involves K-12, higher ed, business

Impressions of a state proposal reviewer…

- Solution involves developing a system, not a series of parts, steps, players, roles, activities, timelines, resources, etc.
- Coherence is as important as comprehensiveness
- Solution takes time and support (needs to be monitored, revised, and nurtured)
- Money is a necessary but not sufficient support factor
- Missing features—professional development and evaluation

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Uses of data and data systems

- Instructional
- Record Keeping
- Tracking
- Program Evaluation
- Accountability (students, teachers, systems)
  - Status
  - Growth (value added?)
- Purpose determines technical and implementation needs

What technical challenges do states face when building data systems?

- Reliability—is the indicator accurate?
- Validity—does the indicator measure what it purports to?
- Feasibility—is the indicator reasonable to collect?
- User friendly—is the indicator accessible across range of audiences and purposes?

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What implementation challenges do states face when building data systems?

- Trust—do users consider the indicator to be fair?
- Value—do users consider the indicator worth their while?
- Burden—how hard is it to collect the indicator?
- Support—what training is provided to support collection of the indicator? what professional development support is provided across audiences and purposes?

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How should states decide when to include specific data elements?

- Value vs. Burden—is the indicator worth the time and cost to collect?
- Incremental validity—does the indicator add significantly to the overall picture of a student? school? system?
- Coherence—does the collection of indicators comprise a system?